

# Demographic & Economic Information for Sanders County

## RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

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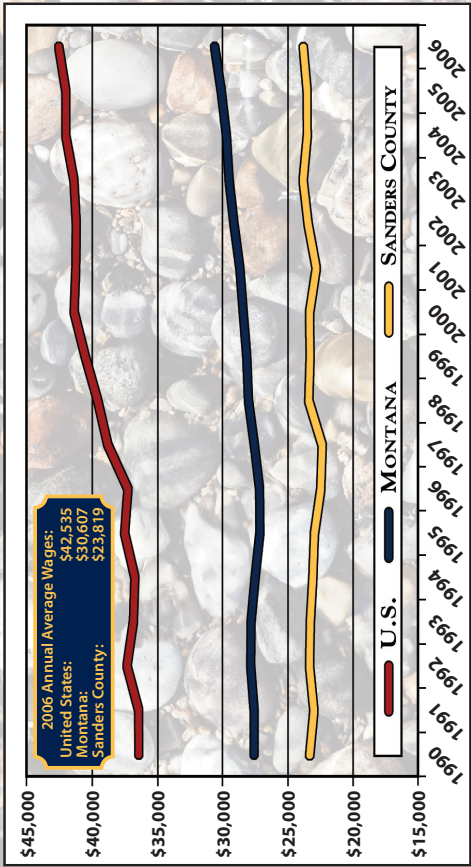
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P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2240 - Fax: (406) 841-2231  
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## Annual Average Labor Force - Sanders County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2006	4,730	4,506	224	4.7%
2005	4,509	4,229	280	6.2%
2004	4,615	4,312	303	6.6%
2003	4,507	4,195	312	6.9%
2002	4,394	4,075	319	7.3%
2001	4,401	4,087	314	7.1%
2000	4,409	4,105	304	6.9%

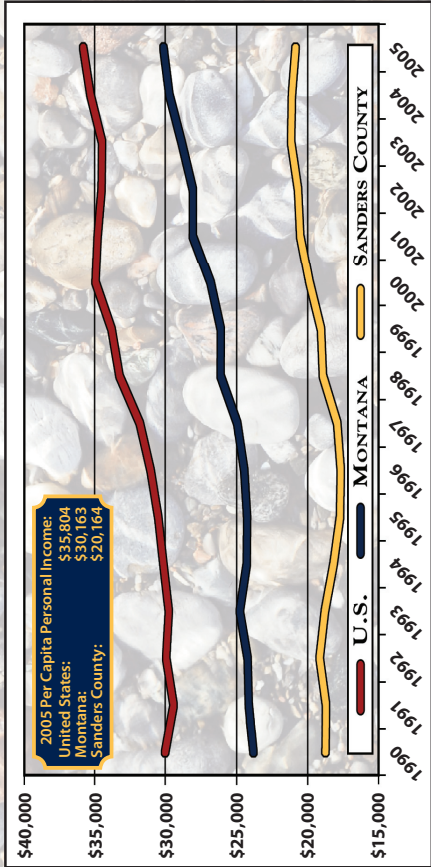
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

## Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2006 (In 2006 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

## Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2005 (In 2006 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

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## SANDERS COUNTY

Sanders County is Montana's eighteenth most populous county, with an estimated 11,138 residents as of July 1, 2006. Thompson Falls, the county seat, is the state's forty-eighth largest city, with a population estimated at 1,403 in 2006.<sup>1</sup> Other cities and towns in Sanders County include Dixon, Heron, Hot Springs, Lonepine, Noxon, Paradise, Plains, and Trout Creek. A significant portion of the Flathead Indian Reservation lies within Sanders County.

The National Bison Range spans the border between Sanders and Lake counties, with the largest part located within Sanders County. The refuge supports a bison population ranging from 350 to 500 animals, as well as numerous other species, such as elk, white-tail and mule deer, pronghorns, bighorn sheep, and black bear.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Estimates Program*

<sup>2</sup>[www.fws.gov/bisomange/nbr](http://www.fws.gov/bisomange/nbr)

## Resources for Sanders County

### Chambers of Commerce

**Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce**  
P. O. Box 580, Hot Springs, MT 59845  
(406) 741-2662, [www.hotsprgs.net/hscoc](http://www.hotsprgs.net/hscoc)

**Plains-Paradise Chamber of Commerce**  
P. O. Box 1531, Plains, MT 59849-1531  
Ph: (406) 826-4700, Fax: (406) 826-2801  
E-mail: [dacy.holland@coldwellbanker.com](mailto:dacy.holland@coldwellbanker.com)

**Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce**  
P. O. Box 493, Thompson Falls, MT 59873  
(406) 827-4930, [www.thompsonfallschamber.com](http://www.thompsonfallschamber.com)

### Newspaper

**Valley Press**  
P. O. Box 667  
Plains, MT 59859-0667  
Phone: (406) 826-3402  
Fax: (406) 826-5577

**Sanders County Ledger**  
P. O. Box 219  
Thompson Falls, MT 59873  
Ph: (406) 827-3421, Fax: (406) 827-4375  
Toll-free: (800) 955-754  
E-mail: [ledger@blackfoot.net](mailto:ledger@blackfoot.net)  
[www.sclledger.net](http://www.sclledger.net)

### Job Service Workforce Center

**Sanders County JSWC**  
P. O. Box 669,  
Thompson Falls, MT 59873  
Ph: (406) 827-3472  
Fax: (406) 827-3327  
E-mail: [thompsonfallsjswc@mt.gov](mailto:thompsonfallsjswc@mt.gov)  
[www.wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/thompsonfalls](http://www.wsd.dli.mt.gov/local/thompsonfalls)

### Economic Development

**Sanders County Community Development Corporation**  
P. O. Box 1326  
Thompson Falls, MT 59873  
Phone: (406) 827-6935  
E-mail: [simonson@ronan.net](mailto:simonson@ronan.net)  
[www.sanderscountycdc.org](http://www.sanderscountycdc.org)

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2006 (continued)

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Nonstore retailers	4	8	\$20,593
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	21	64	\$22,140
Truck transportation	17	35	\$27,280
Transit and ground passenger transport	2	*	*
Pipeline transportation	1	*	*
Postal service	1	*	*
INFORMATION	7	44	\$30,635
Publishing industries, except Internet	2	*	*
Motion picture, sound recording industry	1	*	*
Telecommunications	4	21	\$54,405
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	13	83	\$27,244
Credit intermediation & related activity	6	68	\$28,475
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	2	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	5	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	12	29	\$16,659
Real estate	10	*	*
Rental and leasing services	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	22	38	\$28,724
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	8	23	\$18,372
Administrative and support services	6	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	2	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	9	265	\$26,802
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	35	430	\$24,811
Ambulatory health care services	16	87	\$27,011
Hospitals	1	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	6	*	*
Social assistance	12	82	\$12,703
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	12	45	\$11,536
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	38	327	\$9,870
Accommodation	11	112	\$11,723
Food services and drinking places	27	215	\$8,910
OTHER SERVICES	22	84	\$16,706
Repair and maintenance	8	28	\$22,850
Personal and laundry services	2	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	9	45	\$13,480
Private households	3	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	39	703	\$30,148
Local Government	17	509	\$24,368
State Government	9	54	\$37,700
Federal Government	13	140	\$48,271

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)

## Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2006

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	440	3,259	\$23,822
TOTAL PRIVATE	401	2,555	\$22,080
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	22	114	\$24,804
Crop production	2	*	*
Animal production	1	*	*
Forestry and logging	13	48	\$29,351
Agriculture & forestry support	6	2	\$48,839
MINING	10	66	\$26,429
Mining, except oil and gas	9	*	*
Support activities for mining	2	*	*
UTILITIES	7	44	\$61,314
CONSTRUCTION	78	220	\$23,528
Construction of buildings	34	103	\$21,807
Heavy and civil engineering construction	12	27	\$26,779
Specialty trade contractors	32	91	\$24,515
MANUFACTURING	30	296	\$24,720
Food manufacturing	3	15	\$9,907
Apparel manufacturing	1	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	11	169	\$25,226
Chemical manufacturing	2	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	3	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	4	57	\$25,993
Furniture and related product mfg	2	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	5	20	\$18,528
WHOLESALE TRADE	12	47	\$23,612
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	7	29	\$24,152
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	4	*	*
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	1	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	47	337	\$16,651
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	6	44	\$20,633
Furniture and home furnishings stores	2	*	*
Electronics and appliance stores	1	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	11	78	\$17,843
Food and beverage stores	6	98	\$16,705
Health and personal care stores	2	*	*
Gasoline stations	10	88	\$12,861
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	1	*	*
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	1	*	*
General merchandise stores	1	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	2	*	*

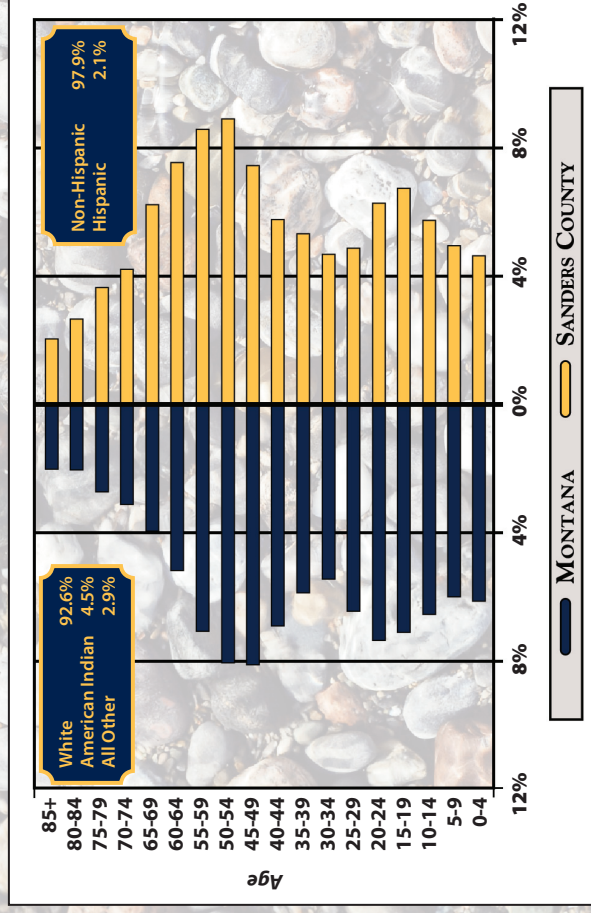
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)  
\* Data Not Disclosable

## Population for Sanders County & Related Areas

Geography	Population Estimates							Census
	% Change 2000-2006	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2003	July 1, 2002	July 1, 2001	April 1, 2000
Sanders County	8.9%	11,138	11,009	10,896	10,515	10,433	10,456	10,227
Hot Springs town	7.2%	569	563	557	540	537	539	531
Plains town	11.2%	1,252	1,239	1,231	1,166	1,148	1,148	1,126
Thompson Falls city	6.2%	1,403	1,387	1,372	1,328	1,320	1,313	1,321
Balance of Sanders County	9.2%	7,914	7,820	7,736	7,481	7,428	7,456	7,249

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

## Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Sanders County, 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Population Estimates

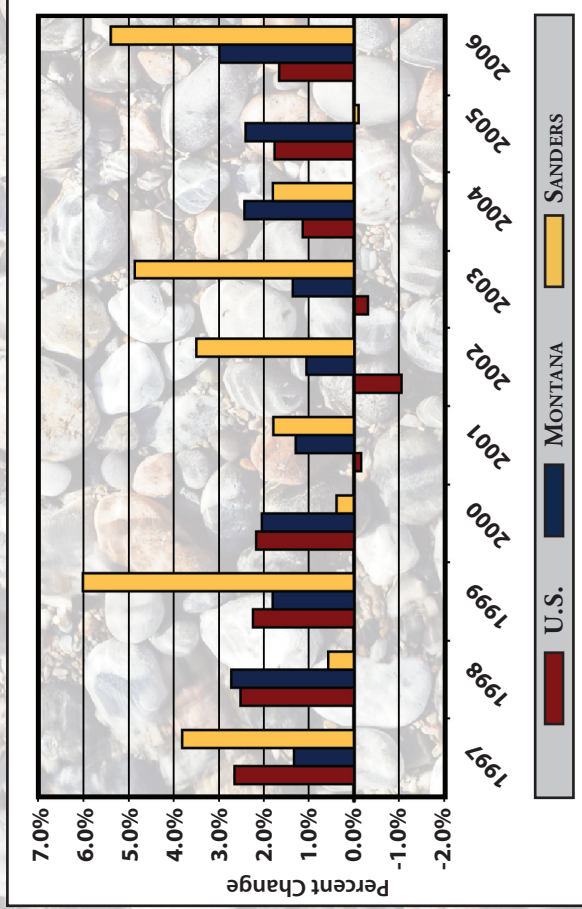
## Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Sanders County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	18.8%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	37.2%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	22.8%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.6%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	11.0%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	2.9%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.3%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.4%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000



## Percent Change in Employment: 1997 to 2006 U.S., Montana, and Sanders County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

## Top 10 Private Employers in Sanders County (Based on 2nd Quarter 2007 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Clark Fork Valley Hospital	6	Monarch School	5
Evergreen Hot Springs Health	4	Quinn's Hot Springs Resort	5
Four Corners Pine	4	Sander's County Harvest Foods	4
IDA Inc.	5	Spring Creek Lodge	6
Lawyer Nursery	5	Thompson River Lumber	5

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance, Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

## Agricultural Statistics - Sanders County

Farms	
Farms: (number)	464
Land in farms (acres)	345,775
Average size of farms (acres)	745
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	403
1,000 acres or more	61
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	441
\$100,000 or more	23
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	439
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	25

### Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	18,683
Hogs and pigs	38
Sheep and lambs	553
Horses and ponies	1,456
Bison	656
Chickens (layers and broilers)	(D)
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	0
Corn for silage or greenchop	0
Wheat for grain, All	340
Winter wheat for grain	(D)
Durum wheat for grain	0
Spring wheat for grain	(D)
Barley for grain	168
Oats for grain	567
Sunflower seed, All	0
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, hayslage, grass silage	30,327

### Operator Demographics

Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	238
Other	226
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	432
Not on farm operated	32
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	121
10 years or more	343
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	214
55 years and over	250
Average age of operators: (number)	56.1

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002  
(D) - Not Disclosable